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(54) **Glass and process for manufacturing of illusion glass**

(57) The technical problem of how to construct glass with smooth surface yet with broken internal parts so the appearance is that of broken (cracked) glass while cleaning is still possible, and there is some degree of resistance against additional stress possible is solved with glass and process of manufacturing of illusion glass. Expression "illusion" refers to fact that the glass seems to be broken while at the same time holds its form.

The solution is provided via surprising technical effect. It was discovered, by the inventors of this invention, that when titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% is added to a mixture comprised of silica sand (SiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 40 wt.% and 80 wt.%, limestone (CaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt.% and 10 wt.%, dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt.% and 10 wt.%, barium carbonate (BaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 0.1 wt.% and 5 wt.%, with optional additional components, and this mixture is applied to procedure as described herein, the result is glass with smooth outer and inner surface and cracked, broken-like, meshed with hairline fractures like and similar appearance. Such glass is called (for purposes of this application) illusion glass with appearance of broken glass with the application of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) intended of unique decorative products of the highest quality grade according to the customer's order with specific physical and chemical characteristics that allow for glass-blowing and manual production of glass products.

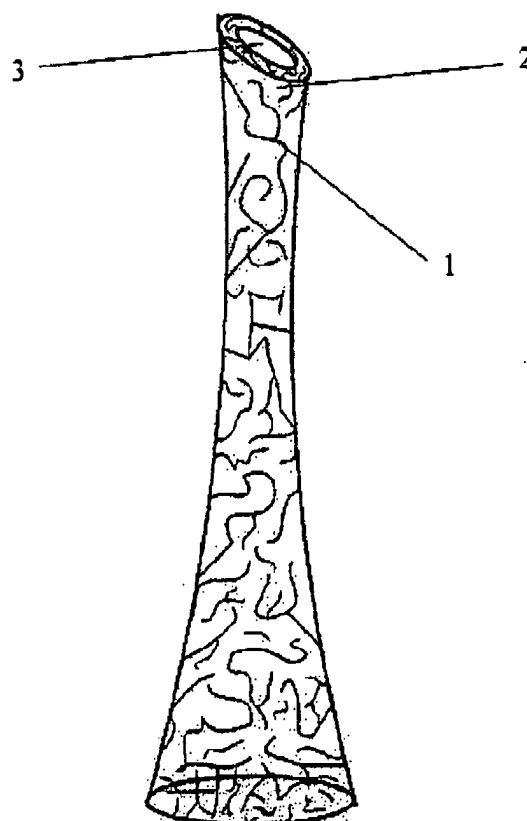


Fig. 2

Description**Field of technology**

5 [0001] Glass, glass manufacturing

Technical problem

10 [0002] Glass designers constantly seek new designs in production of their wares. For some time now it was fashionable to construct objects made of cracked glass, i.e. of glass having "broken" surface appearance. Logical suggestion would be to manufacture glass, which is later "broken" by application of stress (for example by dipping it in cold water). Manufacturing of such cracked glass is possible, however, its surface (especially outer surface) is sharp (broken with crevices or lines) and the objects themselves prone to shatter under weak additional stresses. Technical problem to be solved is how to construct glass with smooth surface yet with broken internal parts so the appearance is that of broken
15 (cracked) glass while cleaning is still possible, and there is some degree of resistance against additional stress possible.

State of the art

20 [0003] According to available information from literature there are very few, or close to none manufacturers of real crackle glass in the world. The only known method for the production of real crackle glass (however, it is not commonly used in glass manufacture today) is quick sinking of melted glass in cold water (temperature under 20°C), which causes cracks on the surface of the glass. During formation glass is reheated and due to extreme temperature changes during further formation the cracks become bigger and/or longer, which results in a typical crackle effect, while the cracks close within and the internal surface becomes smooth. On the glass produced according by sinking in cold water, the cracks
25 can be felt when we touch it; however, the cracks are limited to the upper surface of glass whereby the internal surface remains smooth, without any signs of cracks. Glass acquired according to the above procedure is known as ice glass, craquelle glass and overshot glass. The crackle effect can be increased by additional colouring of the cracked surface.

Description of new invention

30 [0004] The above referenced problem is solved with glass and process of manufacturing of illusion glass. Expression "illusion" refers to fact that the glass seems to be broken while at the same time holds its form. Further expressions, some of which are also used in this text, are crackle glass, internally cracked glass and similar.

35 [0005] The solution is provided via surprising technical effect. It was discovered, by the inventors of this invention, that when titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% is added to a mixture comprised of silica sand (SiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 40 wt.% and 80 wt.%, limestone (CaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt.% and 10 wt.%, dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt.% and 10 wt.%, barium carbonate (BaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 0.1 wt.% and 5 wt.%, with optional additional components, and this mixture is applied to procedure
40 as described herein, the result is glass with smooth outer and inner surface and cracked, broken-like, meshed with hairline fractures like and similar appearance. Such glass is called (for purposes of this application) illusion glass with appearance of broken glass with the application of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) intended of unique decorative products of the highest quality grade according to the customer's order with specific physical and chemical characteristics that allow for glass-blowing and manual production of glass products.

45 [0006] Such glass products manufactured by blowing or manual manufacturing or by other means known in the art of glass manufacturing have customary two surfaces - inner (toward inner side of the object, e.g. room within glass bottle earmarked for wine), and outer. According to surprising technical effect one (inner or outer) or both surfaces remain essentially smooth while material between both surfaces (i.e. between inner and outer surface of such object) has cracked appearance.

50 [0007] This is also seen in Figure 1. Figure 1 shows the surface (which can be inner or outer as it is a planar form) which is smooth (2), and cracks, hairline breaks or fractures (1) inside the glass. From the outside the surface seems cracked whereas on touch it is essentially smooth, and is capable to be taken care of as essentially smooth.

[0008] Figure 2 shows a vase having outer (2) and inner (3) surfaces. Between both surfaces which are essentially smooth there is cracked appearance comprised of cracks, fissures, hairline breaks or fractures (1) in essentially meshed or intertwined manner - cracks meander, collide with each other or have other appearance which is common to cracked
55 or broken glass. As glass is still useable, this effect is denoted as "illusion glass".

[0009] Characteristics of such crackle glass are basically determined by the following characteristics of the glass: appearance, density, softening point and linear extension coefficient. These characteristics are adjusted to conditions

for the manufacture of products in the field of decorative glass industry, as well as the field of ecology and environmental protection.

[0010] Efficient exploitation of crackle glass basic characteristics is possible due to the new basic procedure, crystal structure and concentration, and the size of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) particles in the basic procedure for manufacture of illusion glass.

[0011] The technical problem solved by the relevant invention is the chemical composition and procedure for the manufacture of crackle glass with the application of titanium(IV) oxide in anatase or rutile crystal structures for the manual manufacture and/or blowing of glass products, including the weighing of basic raw materials for manufacture of crackle glass, and combination of common glass components such as (taken alone or in combination) of silica sand (SiO_2) in the concentration range from 40 wt.% to 80 wt.% of soda ash (Na_2CO_3) in the concentration range from 15 wt.% and 35 wt.%, potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3) in the concentration range from 1 wt.% to 6 wt.%, limestone (CaCO_3) in the concentration range from 2 wt.% to 10 wt.%, dolomite

[0012] ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) in the concentration range from 2 wt.% to 10 wt.%, barium carbonate (BaCO_3) in the concentration range from 0.1 wt.% to 5 wt.%, sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) in the concentration range from 0.05 wt.% to 5 wt.%, sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4) in the concentration range from 0.1 wt.% to 5 wt.%, antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) in the concentration range from 0.01 wt.% to 0.6 wt.%, potassium aluminum silicate ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \times 6 \text{SiO}_2$) in the concentration range from 2.0 wt.% to 10 wt.%, zinc oxide (ZnO) - in the concentration range from 0,1 wt.% to 10 wt.% and an addition of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range from 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% prepared according to the chloride or sulphate procedure with parts in the size range from 10 nm to 0,5 microns in the anatase or rutile crystal structure; followed by homogenisation of all input raw materials and time of mixing from 1 to 45 minutes; and gradual introduction of the homogenised mixture in the daily tank furnace where - at the temperature from 1400°C to 1500°C - melting takes place from 12 to 24 hours. Afterwards, we use the glass-blowing procedure or an automated production line to design/form the product. Finally, the reduction of stress in glass occurs when products are placed into an annealing lehr at the temperature between 520°C and 560°C, to cool down to room temperature.

[0013] Surface of the illusion glass produced with the application of titanium(IV) oxide is smooth and even. Crackle effect is the consequence of the reflection of light from the edges of titanium(IV) oxide particles.

[0014] The invention refers to the used raw materials and chemical composition, as well as the production procedure for the manufacture of crackle glass.

[0015] According to the invention the objective is attained with the application of input raw materials, chemical composition and the procedure for manufacture of crackle glass with the application of at least one of the following components:

- silica sand (SiO_2) - in the concentration range from 40 wt.% to 80 wt.%,
- soda ash (Na_2CO_3) - in the concentration range from 10 wt.% and 35 wt.%,
- potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3) - in the concentration range from 1 wt.% to 6 wt.%,
- limestone (CaCO_3) - in the concentration range from 2 wt.% to 10 wt.%,
- dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) - in the concentration range from 2 wt.% to 10 wt.%,
- zinc oxide (ZnO) - in the concentration range from 0,1 wt.% to 10 wt.%,
- barium carbonate (BaCO_3) - in the concentration range from 0.1 wt.% to 5 wt.%,
- sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) - in the concentration range from 0.05 wt.% to 5 wt.%,
- sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4) - in the concentration range from 0.5 wt.% to 5 wt.%,
- antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) - in the concentration range from 0.01 wt.% to 0.6 wt.%,
- potassium aluminum silicate ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \times 6 \text{SiO}_2$) - in the concentration range from 2.0 wt.% to 10 wt.%,

and further application of:

- titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range from 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% which may be prepared according to the chloride or sulphate procedure, and comprise particles in the size range from 10 nm to 0,5 microns, said titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in anatase or rutile crystal structure;

and further optional application of

- Colour on the basis of spinels in the concentration range from 0.01 wt.% to 1 wt.%.

[0016] This effect is attained by the following steps:

- Homogenisation of all input materials in a paddle mixer with a homogenisation time of 1 minute to 45 minutes.
- gradual introduction of the homogenized material in a daily tank furnace where it is melted at a temperature from 1400°C to 1500°C for 12 to 24 hours;

- formation of the end-product
- final phase - reduction of stress in products inside the annealing lehr at the temperature from 520°C in 560°C and cooling down to room temperature.

5 **[0017]** The detailed ratio between specific components and the relevant synthesis process parameters are described in a way of example only in the implementation cases, to follow.

IMPLEMENTATION CASE NO.1

10 **[0018]** We weigh the mixture for the production of glass in the following ratio: 54.2 wt.% of silica (SiO₂), 15.5 wt.% of soda ash (Na₂CO₃), 1.74 wt.% of potassium carbonate (K₂CO₃), 7.0 wt.% of limestone (CaCO₃), 4.2 wt.% of dolomite (CaCO₃ x MgCO₃), 1.8 wt.% of barium carbonate (BaCO₃), 2.4 wt.% of potassium aluminum silicate (K₂OxAl₂O₃x6SiO₂), 2 wt.% of zinc oxide (ZnO), 0.09 wt.% of sodium nitrate (NaNO₃), 1.0 wt.% of sodium sulphate (Na₂SO₄), 0.07 wt.% antimony trioxide (Sb₂O₃). We mix the mixture in the paddle mixer for 15 minutes and add 10 wt.% of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO₂) in the anatase crystal structure with the size of particles of 30 nm. We homogenise the mixture for another 30 minutes.

[0019] We heat up a daily tank furnace to 1450°C and gradually add the homogenised mixture. The glass is melted at a maximum temperature of 1450°C for 16 hours. Upon the completed melting the glass-blower takes the melted glass and forms/blows the desired product.

20 **[0020]** The invention solves the problem by specifying the softening point of crackle and the appearance of crackle glass, which allows for high-quality handcrafting or blowing of glass due to the preserved initial characteristics of transparent glass.

Table 1. Physical characteristics of glass - Implementation case no. 1:

| Softening point [°C] Standard: ASTM C338 - 93(2008) Standard Test Method for Softening Point of Glass | Appearance |
|---|--|
| 671 - 679 | <i>completely smooth surface, transparent with a visible spider-web structure, slightly yellow shade</i> |

IMPLEMENTATION CASE NO. 2

35 **[0021]** We weigh the mixture for the production of glass in the following ratio: 54.2 wt.% of silica (SiO₂), 15.5 wt.% of soda ash (Na₂CO₃), 1.74 wt.% of potassium carbonate (K₂CO₃), 7.0 wt.% of limestone (CaCO₃), 4.2 wt.% of dolomite (CaCO₃ x MgCO₃), 1.8 wt.% of barium carbonate (BaCO₃), 2.4 wt.% of potassium aluminum silicate (K₂OxAl₂O₃x6SiO₂), 2 wt.% of zinc oxide (ZnO), 0.09 wt.% of sodium nitrate (NaNO₃), 1.0 wt.% of sodium sulphate (Na₂SO₄), 0.07 wt.% antimony trioxide (Sb₂O₃). We mix the mixture in the paddle mixer for 15 minutes and add 10 wt.% of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO₂) in the anatase crystal structure with the size of particles of 0.35 microns. We homogenise the mixture for another 15 minutes.

[0022] We heat up a daily tank furnace to 1440°C and gradually add the homogenised mixture. The glass is melted at a maximum temperature of 1440°C for 14 hours. Upon the completed melting the glass-blower takes the melted glass and forms/blows the desired product.

45 **[0023]** The invention solves the problem by specifying the softening point of crackle and the appearance of crackle glass, which allow high-quality handcrafting or blowing of glass due to the preserved initial characteristics of transparent glass.

Table 2. Physical characteristics of glass - Implementation case no. 2:

| Softening point [°C] Standard: ASTM C338 - 93(2008) Standard Test Method for Softening Point of Glass | Appearance |
|---|--|
| 671 - 679 | <i>completely smooth surface, transparent with a visible spider-web structure, slightly yellow shade</i> |

IMPLEMENTATION CASE NO. 3

[0024] We weigh the mixture for the production of glass in the following ratio: 56.4 wt.% of silica (SiO_2), 17.0 wt.% of soda ash (Na_2CO_3), 1.74 wt.% of potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3), 7.0 wt.% of limestone (CaCO_3), 4.2 wt.% of dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$), 1.2 wt.% of barium carbonate (BaCO_3), 0.09 wt.% of sodium nitrate (NaNO_3), 0.8 wt.% of sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4), 0.07 wt.% antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3), 3.5 wt.% zinc oxide (ZnO). We mix the mixture in the paddle mixer for 15 minutes and add 8 wt.% of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the rutile crystal structure with the size of particles of 50 nm. We homogenise the mixture for another 30 minutes.

[0025] We heat up a daily tank furnace to 1455°C and gradually add the homogenised mixture. The glass is melted at a maximum temperature of 1455°C for 15 hours. Upon the completed melting the glass-blower takes the melted glass and forms/blows the desired product.

[0026] The invention solves the problem by specifying the softening point and the appearance of crackle glass, which allow high-quality handcrafting or blowing of glass due to the preserved initial characteristics of transparent glass.

Table 3 . Physical characteristics of glass - Implementation case no. 3:

| Softening point [°C] Standard: ASTM C338 - 93(2008) Standard Test Method for Softening Point of Glass | Appearance |
|---|--|
| 671 - 679 | <i>completely smooth surface, transparent with a visible spider-web structure, slightly yellow shade</i> |

IMPLEMENTATION CASE NO. 4

[0027] We weigh the mixture for the production of glass in the following ratio: 55.2 wt.% of silica (SiO_2), 16.5 wt.% of soda ash (Na_2CO_3), 1.74 wt.% of potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3), 7.0 wt.% of limestone (CaCO_3), 4.2 wt.% of dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$), 1.8 wt.% of barium carbonate (BaCO_3), 2.4 wt.% of potassium aluminum silicate ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \times 6\text{SiO}_2$), 1.9 wt.% of zinc oxide (ZnO), 0.09 wt.% of sodium nitrate (NaNO_3), 1.0 wt.% of sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4), 0.07 wt.% antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3). We mix the mixture in the paddle mixer for 15 minutes and add 0.1 wt.% of Cr₂Al spinel pigment and 7.9 wt.% of titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the anatase crystal structure with the size of particles of 30 nm. We homogenise the mixture for another 30 minutes.

[0028] We heat up a daily tank furnace to 1450°C and gradually add the homogenised mixture. The glass is melted at a maximum temperature of 1450°C for 16 hours. Upon the completed melting the glass-blower takes the melted glass and forms/blows the desired product.

[0029] The invention solves the problem by specifying the softening point and the appearance of crackle glass, which allow high-quality handcrafting or blowing of glass due to the preserved initial characteristics of transparent glass.

Table 4 . Physical characteristics of glass - Implementation case no. 4:

| Softening point [°C] Standard: ASTM C338 - 93(2008) Standard Test Method for Softening Point of Glass | Appearance |
|---|---|
| 671 - 679 | <i>completely smooth surface, transparent with a visible spider-web structure, slightly green shade</i> |

Claims

- Glass comprising silica sand (SiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 40 wt.% and 80 wt.%, limestone (CaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt.% and 10 wt.%, dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt.% and 10 wt.%, barium carbonate (BaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 0.1 wt.% and 5 wt.%, and titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 1 wt.% to 15 wt.%.
- Glass according to claim 1 wherein said titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) is in form of anatase or rutile crystal structures.
- Glass according to claim 1 having smooth surface on outer (2) or inner (3), or both inner (3) and outer (2) sides with

fractures (1) appearance between surfaces (2, 3) preferably in meshed or intertwined form.

4. Glass according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein said glass further comprises color on the basis of spinels in the concentration range from 0.01 wt. % to 1 wt. %.

5. Glass according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein one or more additional components is chosen from the group comprising soda ash (Na_2CO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 10 wt. % and 35 wt. %, potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 1 wt. % to 6 wt. %, zinc oxide (ZnO) in the concentration range essentially from 0,1 wt. % to 10 wt. %, sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 0.05 wt. % to 5 wt. %, sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4) in the concentration range essentially from 0,5 wt. % to 5 wt. %, antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) in the concentration range essentially from 0.01 wt. % to 0.6 wt. %, potassium aluminum silicate ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \times 6 \text{SiO}_2$) in the concentration range essentially from 2.0 wt. % to 10 wt. %.

6. Glass according to any of the preceding claims comprising silica sand (SiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 50 wt. % and 60 wt. % preferably between 54.2 wt. % and 56.4 wt. %, soda ash (Na_2CO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 13 wt. % and 18 wt. % preferably between 15.5 wt. % and 17 wt. %, potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 1 wt. % to 3 wt. % preferably around 1.74 wt. %, limestone (CaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 8 wt. % and 9 wt. % preferably around 7 wt. %, dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) in the concentration range essentially between 3 wt. % and 5 wt. % preferably around 4.2 wt. %, barium carbonate (BaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 1 wt. % and 3 wt. % preferably between 1.2 wt. % and 1.8 wt. %, zinc oxide (ZnO) in the concentration range essentially from 1 wt. % to 4 wt. % between 2 wt. % and 3.5 wt. %, sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 0.05 wt. % to 2 wt. % preferably around 0.09 wt. %, sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4) in the concentration range essentially from 0,5 wt. % to 2 wt. % between 0.8 wt. % and 1 wt. %, antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) in the concentration range essentially from 0.03 wt. % to 0.2 wt. % preferably around 0.07 wt. %, and titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 5 wt. % to 15 wt. % preferably between 7.9 wt. % and 10 wt. %.

7. Glass according to claim 6 further comprising potassium aluminum silicate ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \times 6 \text{SiO}_2$) in the concentration range essentially from 2.0 wt. % to 4 wt. % preferably around 2,4 wt. %.

8. Glass according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) is in the anatase crystal structure with the size of particles of between 10 nm and 65 nm preferably between 30 nm and 50 nm.

9. Glass according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) is in the anatase crystal structure with the size of particles of between 100 and 450 nm preferably around 350 nm.

10. Glass according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) is in the rutile crystal structure with the size of particles of between 20 nm and 80 nm preferably around 50 nm.

11. Glass according to any of the claims 6 to 9 further comprising Cr_2Al spinel pigment in the concentration range essentially between 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. % preferably around 0.1 wt. %.

12. Process for manufacturing glass comprising the steps of

- Homogenisation in a paddle mixer with a homogenisation time between 1 minute and 45 minutes of input materials comprising:

- o at least one component chosen from the group comprising silica sand (SiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 40 wt. % and 80 wt. %, limestone (CaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt. % and 10 wt. % , dolomite ($\text{CaCO}_3 \times \text{MgCO}_3$) in the concentration range essentially between 2 wt. % and 10 wt. %, barium carbonate (BaCO_3) in the concentration range essentially between 0.1 wt. % and 5 wt. % soda ash (Na_2CO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 10 wt. % and 35 wt. %, potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 1 wt. % to 6 wt. %, zinc oxide (ZnO) in the concentration range essentially from 0,1 wt. % to 10 wt. %, sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) in the concentration range essentially from 0.05 wt. % to 5 wt. %, sodium sulphate (Na_2SO_4) in the concentration range essentially from 0,5 wt. % to 5 wt. %, antimony trioxide (Sb_2O_3) in the concentration range essentially from 0.01 wt. % to 0.6 wt. %, potassium aluminum silicate ($\text{K}_2\text{O} \times \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \times 6 \text{SiO}_2$) in the concentration range essentially from 2.0 wt. % to 10 wt. %.

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o titanium(IV) oxide (TiO_2) in the concentration range essentially between 1 wt.% to 15 wt.%;

- gradual introduction of the homogenized material in a daily tank furnace where it is melted at a temperature from 1400°C to 1500°C for 12 to 24 hours;
- reduction of stress in products inside the annealing lehr at the temperature from 520°C to 560°C and cooling down to room temperature.

13. Process according to claim 11 wherein the homogenized material is melted at a temperature between 1430°C to 1460°C for 13 to 17 hours, preferably between 1440°C to 1455°C for 14 to 16 hours.

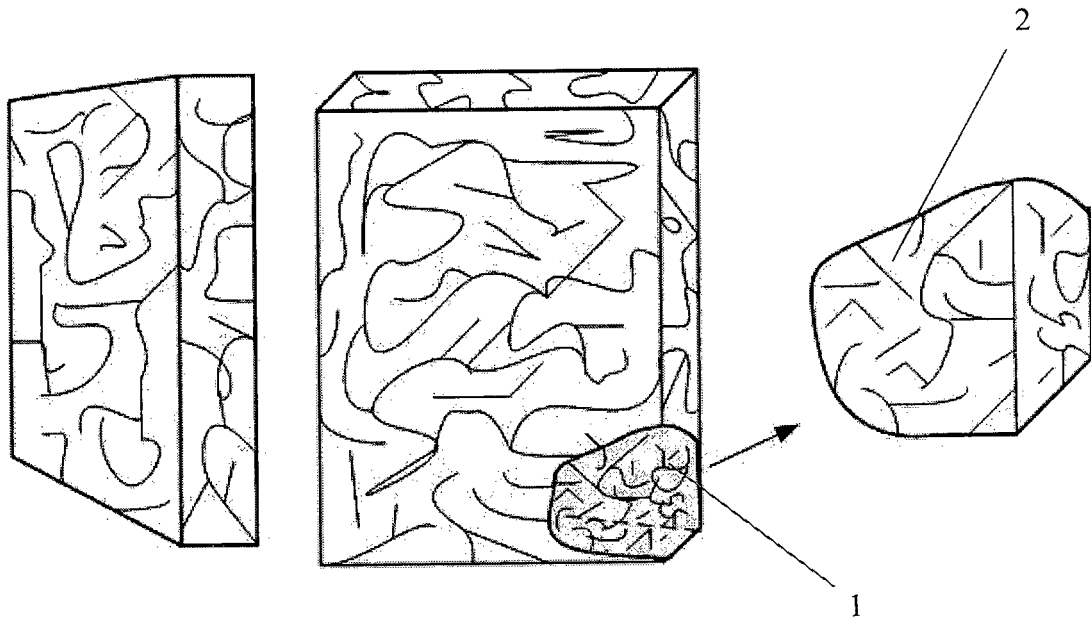


Fig. 1

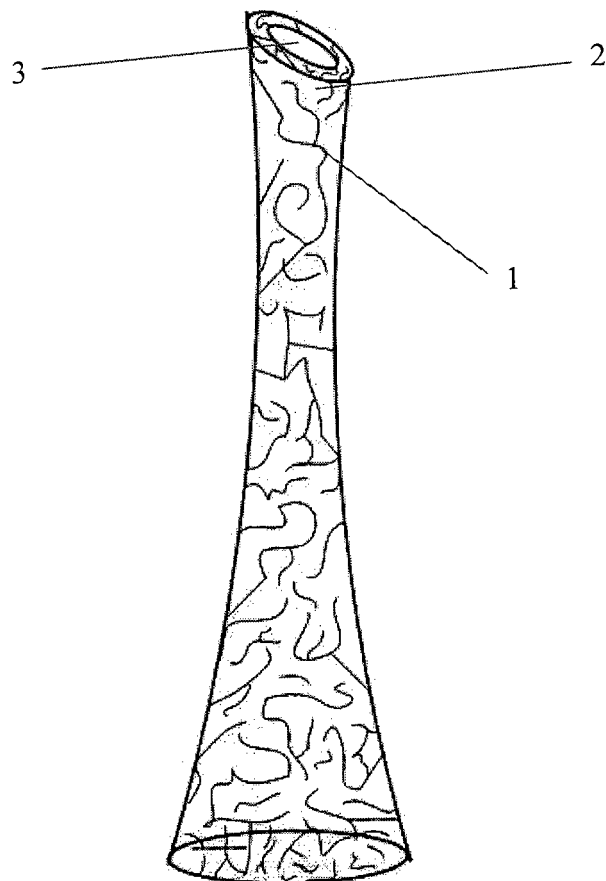


Fig. 2



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 13 00 1492

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
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| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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